

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/692,506

Examiner

Marissa L Ferguson

Applicant(s)

GULLY, ROBERT

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an IDS filed 2/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/9/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus for shifting a keyboard comprising a base, a carriage movable on the base and configured with an upper surface for support of the keyboard and a palm rest movable on the base offset from the carriage and operably connected to the carriage through a coupler configured to enable movement of the carriage in a second direction when the palm rest is moved in an opposite first direction, whereby a user may place a hand on the palm rest and shift the palm rest in a selected direction so as to position a selected portion of the keyboard under the hand for ease of use.

Regarding claim 14, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus for shifting a keyboard comprising a base, a means for supporting the keyboard movable on the base, a means for supporting a palm of a user, the palm supporting means movable on the base and offset from the keyboard supporting means and a means for shifting the keyboard supporting means in a second direction when the palm supporting means is shifted in an opposite first direction, wherein the user may place the palm on the palm supporting means and shift the palm supporting means in a selected direction so as to position a selected portion of the keyboard for ease of use.

Art Unit: 2854

Regarding claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus comprising a base, a carriage slidably mounted on the base and configured with an upper surface for support of the keyboard, a motor mounted in engaging relationship between the carriage and the base, a palm rest slidably mounted on the base offset from the carriage, and at least one actuation switch mounted on the palm rest and operably connected to the motor, the actuation switch being configured to actuate the motor so as to shift the carriage in a second direction when the actuation switch is triggered by movement of the palm rest in an opposite first direction, whereby a user may place a hand on the palm rest and shift the palm rest in a selected direction so as to position a selected portion of the keyboard under the hand for ease of use.

Regarding claim 17, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a method of one-hand operation of a keyboard comprising the steps of positioning the keyboard on a carriage movable on a base, placing a hand on a palm rest movable on the base offset from the carriage, moving the palm rest in a first direction and shifting the carriage in an opposite second direction as caused by the movement of the palm rest in the first direction, whereby a selected portion of the keyboard is positioned under the hand for ease of use.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2854

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa L Ferguson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2163. The examiner can normally be reached on (M-T) 6:30am-4:00pm and every other (F) 7:30am-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MLF

Marissa L Ferguson
Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Andrew H. Hirshfeld
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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